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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
Third session
Geneva, 12 August-4 September 1991
Item 2 (d) of the provisional agenda*

PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND
DEVELOPMENT ON THE BASIS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 44/228 AND
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OTHER RELEVANT GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS

Draft provisional agenda, organization of work
and draft rules of procedure of the Conference

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference

INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, at its forty-sixth session, will be expected to approve the provisional agenda, organization of work and provisional rules of procedure of the Conference. The Preparatory Committee, for its part, should approve recommendations on these matters at its third session for submission to the Assembly. In order to assist the Preparatory Committee in its work, the Secretary-General of the Conference presents the following proposals for its consideration.

2. The basic framework for the preparation of proposals on these issues is provided by the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 44/228 of 22 December 1989 and 45/211 of 21 December 1990 in whole or in part. In this regard, it may be recalled that:

(a) In part I, paragraph 15, of General Assembly resolution 44/228, Member States had determined the objectives of the Conference;

* A/CONF.151/PC/39.

(b) In part II, paragraph 8 (a), of the same resolution, the Preparatory Committee was authorized to draft the provisional agenda of the Conference, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 44/228;

(c) In part II, paragraph 12, of the same resolution, relevant non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were requested to contribute to the Conference, as appropriate;

(d) In paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 45/211, it was decided that the Conference would be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 1 to 12 June 1992;

(e) In paragraph 6 of the same resolution, the Assembly urged that representation at the Conference be at the level of head of State or Government;

(f) In paragraph 7 of the same resolution, the Secretary-General of the United Nations was invited to issue invitations to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies and observers, in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly.

3. Account must also be taken of the decisions adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its organizational, first and second sessions, the manner in which the Committee has translated the guidelines contained in General Assembly resolution 44/228 concerning the content of the Conference into specific agenda items for its work, and the approaches which the Secretary-General of the Conference has been authorized to develop in terms of possible outcomes. In addition, in General Assembly resolution 45/212 on the protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind, Member States indicated that the negotiations for the preparations of an effective framework convention on climate change, containing appropriate commitments, and any related legal instruments as might be agreed upon, should be completed prior to the Conference and opened for signature during the Conference. The Assembly also requested the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, on behalf of the Committee, to submit a report to the Conference on the outcome of the negotiations, as well as on possible future steps in the field of climate change.

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA

4. The draft provisional agenda will need to contain a number of standard items dealing with the opening of the Conference, the election of officers, the adoption of rules of procedure, the adoption of the agenda, the appointment of a Credentials Committee and the adoption of the report of the Conference. In terms of substance, it must anticipate and project the potential outputs of the Conference. The Secretary-General of the Conference has presented suggestions in this regard and these have been discussed by the Preparatory Committee and broadly endorsed by it. These outputs are expected to be:

(a) An "Earth Charter";

(b) A Programme of Action for "Agenda 21";

- (c) Decisions on financial resources;
- (d) Decisions on technology transfer issues;
- (e) Decisions on institutional development;
- (f) The signing of Conventions negotiated outside the Preparatory Committee framework.

5. The draft provisional agenda will also need to reflect the substantive issues before the Conference as they have been considered and developed by the Preparatory Committee in its own agenda. Bearing in mind the importance of continuity, it would seem to be impractical to expect States, which have become accustomed to negotiating issues in a particular format and addressing issues in particular clusters, to be presented at the Conference with an entirely different approach. Based on these considerations, the draft provisional agenda might consist of the following items:

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the President.
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
4. Adoption of the agenda.
5. Election of officers other than the President.
6. Organization of work, including establishment of the Main Committees of the Conference.
7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
 - (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
 - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
8. General debate.
9. Adoption of the Earth Charter.
10. Adoption of the Programme of Action for Agenda 21. 1/
11. Financial resources.
12. Transfer of technology.

1/ Sub-items will subsequently be listed under item 10 in the light of the decisions of the Preparatory Committee concerning the content of "Agenda 21".

13. Institutional development.
14. Adoption of conventions.
15. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

6. The Preparatory Committee will need to make recommendations to the General Assembly on a number of issues concerning the organization of work of the Conference. These issues are:

- (a) Arrangements for pre-session consultations;
- (b) General Committee;
- (c) Organization of the general debate;
- (d) Establishment and organization of the Main Committees;
- (e) Participation at the Conference;
- (f) Special arrangements for the participation of heads of State or Government.

7. Arrangements for pre-session consultations. In accordance with established practice followed for all United Nations special conferences, it is proposed that pre-session consultations be held on the week-end preceding the Conference in order to reach final agreement on recommendations to be made on all procedural and organizational matters to be dealt with at the Conference on the opening day. These matters include the election of officers, the composition and distribution of posts on the Bureau among the regional groups, the adoption of the rules of procedure, the adoption of the agenda and organization of work, the appointment of members of the Credentials Committee and arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Conference. Consequently, it is suggested that pre-session consultations be held in Rio de Janeiro on 30 and 31 May.

8. General Committee. The Conference will need to elect a President, a number of Vice-Presidents, a Rapporteur-General and the Chairmen of the Main Committees. Together, these officers of the Conference will comprise the General Committee. The General Committee will meet during the Conference as needed to review the progress of work and to coordinate activities. In this connection, it may be noted that it is customary that the host Government provides the President of the Conference. With regard to the composition of the rest of the General Committee, it is suggested that the basic pattern adopted for the Preparatory Committee, which appears to have proved to be satisfactory, should be followed. There would thus be five senior posts at the Conference to be distributed among the five regional groups, namely,

the President, the Rapporteur-General and the three Chairmen of the Main Committees (see para.10 below) and 39 Vice-Presidents distributed on the following basis:

African States	11
Asian States	9
Eastern European States	4
Latin American and Caribbean States	8
Western European and Other States	7

9. Organization of the general debate. Arrangements for the general debate will need to take account of the expected presence of a large number of heads of State or Government, as well as Ministers of Government. Executive heads of United Nations specialized agencies, organizations and programmes, observers and spokespersons for constituencies of the non-governmental organizations will also wish to speak. It is proposed that statements by heads of State or Government be made in the second week, with all other statements made in the first week. No delegation would be allowed to speak more than once in the general debate. A time-limit of 15 minutes is suggested for statements by representatives of Government and 10 minutes for all other statements. The general debate would take place during the first eight working days of the Conference, i.e., between 1 and 10 June.

10. Establishment and organization of the Main Committees. On the basis of the draft provisional agenda proposed above, the substantive items of the Conference should be allocated for consideration to a number of Main Committees established for that purpose. Main Committee I could consider items 9, 13 and 14, Main Committee II item 10 and Main Committee III items 11 and 12. The Main Committees would need to complete their work no later than the evening of Tuesday, 9 June, in order to allow time for their reports to be prepared for presentation to the Plenary.

11. Participation at the Conference. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 45/211, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations to invite various categories of participants to the Conference. In part II, paragraph 12, of its resolution 44/228, the General Assembly requested relevant non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to contribute to the Conference, as appropriate. In paragraph 13 of its resolution 45/211, the Assembly authorized the Preparatory Committee, without prejudice to the provisions of Assembly resolution 44/228, to continue to apply, for the purpose of the preparatory process, the provisional arrangements agreed upon in decision 1/1 of the Preparatory Committee concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process. Subsequently, the Preparatory Committee agreed on arrangements for the participation of non-governmental organizations in its work (see decisions 2/1 and 2/2) and, in decision 2/4, approved the granting of observer status to a number of intergovernmental organizations that do not have that status with the General Assembly. In the interests of consistency, Governments may wish to agree on similar arrangements for the Conference. In this event, the Preparatory Committee may wish to recommend that all intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations invited to participate in the Preparatory Committee receive invitations to participate at the Conference.

12. Special arrangements for the participation of heads of State or Government. Following a recommendation of the Preparatory Committee, the General Assembly has urged that representation at the Conference be at the level of head of State or Government. It is therefore essential that the structure of the Conference provide a suitable opportunity for the heads of State or Government to make major statements on behalf of their countries and also to participate collectively in an affirmation of their combined commitment to the objectives of the Conference.

13. In paragraph 9 above, proposals have been made concerning the participation of heads of State or Government in the general debate. Another major issue that has to be decided is the timing of a "special event" for heads of State or Government. This could be held at the beginning of the Conference, in the middle on Environment Day (i.e., 5 June), or at the end as the culmination of the process. On a balance of considerations, and keeping in mind, in particular, the need to end the Conference on a high note, it would perhaps be preferable to schedule the "special event" for heads of State or Government at the end of the Conference. The "special event" could take place on Thursday, 11 June. It could take the form of a "round table", limited to heads of State or Government, which would be designed to encourage an interaction between the heads of State or Government rather than the delivery of set speeches. On that day neither the Plenary nor any other Committee would be in session. The theme and the structure of this "round table" would need to be discussed by the Preparatory Committee. The last day of the Conference would be devoted to a plenary session, again with special emphasis on heads of State or Government, for approving the final text of the outputs of the Conference and for a major "signing ceremony" of the Earth Charter and other final acts of the Conference. Conventions could be signed at this ceremony, or a separate ceremony could be held for that purpose.

14. Draft provisional rules of procedure of the Conference. The draft provisional rules of procedure set out below are based on the rules of procedure used for various recent United Nations conferences. It should be noted, however, that while almost all of these rules are standard, some variations do occur between rules adopted for different conferences.

DRAFT PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

I. REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Composition of delegations

Rule 1

The delegation of each State participating in the Conference shall consist of a head of delegation and such other representatives, alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Alternates and advisers

Rule 2

The head of delegation may designate an alternate representative or an adviser to act as a representative.

Submission of credentials

Rule 3

The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretary-General of the Conference, if possible not less than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the Conference. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of the State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Credentials Committee

Rule 4

A Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. Its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its forty-sixth session. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay

Provisional participation in the Conference

Rule 5

Pending a decision of the Conference upon their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the Conference.

II. OFFICERS

Elections

Rule 6

The Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: a President, (...) Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur-General, as well as a Chairman for each of the Main Committees established in accordance with rule 46. These officers shall be elected on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the General Committee. The Conference may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

General powers of the President

Rule 7

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the President shall preside at the plenary meetings of the Conference, declare the opening and closing of each meeting, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order thereat. The President may propose to the Conference the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times each representative may speak on a question, the adjournment or closure of the debate and the suspension or the adjournment of a meeting.

2. The President, in the exercise of his function, remains under the authority of the Conference.

Acting President

Rule 8

1. If the President is absent from a meeting or any part thereof, he shall designate one of the Vice-Presidents to take his place.

2. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Replacement of the President

Rule 9

If the President is unable to perform his functions, a new President shall be elected.

Voting rights of the President

Rule 10

The President, or a Vice-President acting as President, shall not vote in the Conference, but may appoint another member of his delegation to vote in his place.

III. GENERAL COMMITTEE

Composition

Rule 11

The President, the Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur-General and the Chairmen of the Main Committees shall constitute the General Committee. The President, or in his absence one of the Vice-Presidents designated by him, shall serve as Chairman of the General Committee. The Chairman of the

Credentials Committee and other committees established by the Conference in accordance with rule 48 may participate, without the right to vote, in the General Committee.

Substitute members

Rule 12

If the President or a Vice-President of the Conference is to be absent during a meeting of the General Committee, he may designate a member of his delegation to sit and vote in the Committee. In case of absence, the Chairman of a Main Committee shall designate the Vice-Chairman of that Committee as his substitute. When serving on the General Committee, the Vice-Chairman of a Main Committee shall not have the right to vote if he is of the same delegation as another member of the General Committee.

Functions

Rule 13

The General Committee shall assist the President in the general conduct of the business of the Conference and, subject to the decisions of the Conference, shall ensure the coordination of its work.

IV. SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE

Duties of the Secretary-General of the Conference

Rule 14

1. The Secretary-General of the Conference shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Conference and its subsidiary organs.
2. The Secretary-General of the Conference may designate a member of the secretariat to act in his place at these meetings.
3. The Secretary-General of the Conference shall direct the staff required by the Conference.

Duties of the secretariat

Rule 15

The secretariat of the Conference shall, in accordance with these rules:

- (a) Interpret speeches made at meetings;
- (b) Receive, translate, reproduce and circulate the documents of the Conference;
- (c) Publish and circulate the official documents of the Conference;
- (d) Prepare and circulate records of public meetings;

(e) Make and arrange for the keeping of sound recordings and provide summary records of meetings;

(f) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the Conference in the archives of the United Nations;

(g) Generally perform all other work that the Conference may require.

Statements by the secretariat

Rule 16

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the Conference, or any member of the secretariat designated by either for that purpose, may, at any time, make other oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

V. OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

Temporary President

Rule 17

The Secretary-General of the United Nations or, in his absence, the Secretary-General of the Conference, shall open the first meeting of the Conference and preside until the Conference has elected its President.

Decisions concerning organization

Rule 18

The Conference shall at its first meeting:

- (a) Adopt its rules of procedure;
- (b) Elect its officers and constitute its subsidiary organs;
- (c) Adopt its agenda, the draft of which shall, until such adoption, be the provisional agenda of the Conference;
- (d) Decide on the organization of its work.

VI. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Quorum

Rule 19

The President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one third of the representatives of the States participating in the Conference are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.

Speeches

Rule 20

1. No one may address the Conference without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Subject to rules 21, 22 and 25 to 27, the President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The secretariat shall be in charge of drawing up a list of speakers.
2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Conference and the President may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
3. The Conference may limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each participant may speak on any question. Permission to speak on a motion to set such limits shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing such limits, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. In any event, with the consent of the Conference, the President shall limit each intervention on procedural matters to five minutes. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call him to order without delay.

Points of order

Rule 21

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with these rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the representatives present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Precedence

Rule 22

The Chairman or Rapporteur of a Main Committee, or the representative of a subcommittee or working group may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by the body concerned.

Closing of the list of speakers

Rule 23

During the course of a debate, the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Conference, declare the list closed.

Right of reply

Rule 24

1. Notwithstanding rule 23, the President shall accord the right of reply to a representative of any State participating in the Conference who requests it. Any other representative may be granted the opportunity to make a reply.
2. The statements made under this rule shall normally be made at the end of the last meeting of the day, or at the conclusion of the consideration of the relevant item if that is sooner.
3. The representatives of a State may make no more than two statements under this rule at a given meeting on any item. The first shall be limited to five minutes and the second to three minutes; representatives shall in any event attempt to be as brief as possible.

Adjournment of debate

Rule 25

A representative may at any time move the adjournment of the debate on the question under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour and to two opposing the adjournment, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Closure of debate

Rule 26

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the question under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Suspension or adjournment of the meeting

Rule 27

Subject to rule 38, a representative may at any time move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted and they shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Order of motions

Rule 28

The motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

- (a) to suspend the meeting;

- (b) To adjourn the meeting;
- (c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion;
- (d) To close the debate on the question under discussion.

Submission of proposals and substantive amendments

Rule 29

Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General of the Conference, who shall circulate copies to all delegations. Unless the Conference decides otherwise, substantive proposals shall be discussed or put to a decision no earlier than 24 hours after copies have been circulated in all languages of the Conference to all delegations. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments, even though these amendments have not been circulated or have only been circulated the same day.

Withdrawal of proposals and motions

Rule 30

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before a decision on it has been taken, provided that it has not been amended. A proposal or a motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

Decisions on competence

Rule 31

Subject to rule 21, any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Conference to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

Reconsideration of proposals

Rule 32

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered unless the Conference, by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing reconsideration, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

VII. DECISION-MAKING

General agreement

Rule 33

The Conference shall make its best endeavours to ensure that the work of the Conference is accomplished by general agreement.

Voting rights

Rule 34

Each State participating in the Conference shall have one vote.

Majority required

Rule 35

1. Subject to rule 33, decisions of the Conference on all matters of substance shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting.
2. Except as otherwise provided in these rules, decisions of the Conference on all matters of procedure shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting.
3. If the question arises whether a matter is one of procedure or of substance, the President of the Conference shall rule on the question. An appeal against this ruling shall be put to the vote immediately, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the representatives present and voting.
4. If a vote is equally divided, the proposal or motion shall be regarded as rejected.

Meaning of the phrase "representatives present and voting"

Rule 36

For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "representatives present and voting" means representatives casting an affirmative or negative vote. Representatives who abstain from voting shall be regarded as not voting.

Method of voting

Rule 37

1. Except as provided in rule 44, the Conference shall normally vote by show of hands, except that a representative may request a roll-call, which shall then be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the States participating in the Conference, beginning with the delegation whose name is drawn by lot by the President. The name of each State shall be called in all roll-calls, and its representative shall reply "yes", "no" or "abstention".
2. When the Conference votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call. A representative may request a recorded vote, which shall, unless a representative requests otherwise, be taken without calling out the names of the States participating in the Conference.

3. The vote of each State participating in a roll-call or a recorded vote shall be inserted in any record of or report on the meeting.

Conduct during voting

Rule 38

After the President has announced the commencement of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting, except on a point of order in connection with the process of voting.

Explanation of vote

Rule 39

Representatives may make brief statements consisting solely of explanations of vote, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed. The President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The representative of a State sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon, except if it has been amended.

Division of proposals

Rule 40

A representative may move that parts of a proposal be decided on separately. If a representative objects, the motion for division shall be voted upon. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing the division. If the motion is carried, those parts of the proposal that are subsequently approved shall be put to the Conference for decision as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal have been rejected, the proposal shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Amendments

Rule 41

A proposal is considered an amendment to another proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal. Unless specified otherwise, the word "proposal" in these rules shall be considered as including amendments.

Order of voting on amendments

Rule 42

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Conference shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the

original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon.

Order of voting on proposals

Rule 43

1. If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Conference decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they were submitted. The Conference may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.
2. Revised proposals shall be voted on in the order in which the original proposals were submitted, unless the revision substantially departs from the original proposal. In that case, the original proposal shall be considered as withdrawn and the revised proposal shall be treated as a new proposal.
3. A motion requiring that no decision be taken on a proposal shall be put to the vote before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

Elections

Rule 44

All elections shall be held by secret ballot unless, in the absence of any objection, the Conference decides to proceed without taking a ballot when there is an agreed candidate or State.

Rule 45

1. When one or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, in a number not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot a majority of the votes cast and the largest number of votes, shall be elected.
2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of places to be filled, additional ballots shall be held to fill the remaining places.

VIII. SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Main Committees

Rule 46

The Conference may establish Main Committees as required which may set up subcommittees or working groups.

Representation on the Main Committees

Rule 47

Each State participating in the Conference may be represented by one representative on each Main Committee established by the Conference. It may assign to these Committees such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Other committees and working groups

Rule 48

1. In addition to the committees referred to above, the Conference may establish such committees and working groups as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.
2. Each committee may set up subcommittees and working groups.

Rule 49

1. The members of the committees and working groups of the Conference, referred to in rule 48, paragraph 1, shall be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Conference, unless the Conference decides otherwise.
2. Members of the subcommittees and working groups of committees shall be appointed by the Chairman of the committee in question, subject to the approval of that committee, unless the committee decides otherwise.

Officers

Rule 50

Except as otherwise provided in rule 6, each committee, subcommittee and working group shall elect its own officers.

Quorum

Rule 51

1. The Chairman of a Main Committee may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when representatives of at least one quarter of the States participating in the Conference are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.
2. A majority of the representatives of the General or Credentials Committee or of any committee, subcommittee or working group shall constitute a quorum.

Officers, conduct of business and voting

Rule 52

The rules contained in chapters II, VI (except rule 19) and VII above shall be applicable, mutatis mutandis, to the proceedings of committees, subcommittees and working groups, except that:

- (a) The Chairmen of the General and Credentials Committees and the chairmen of the committees, subcommittees and working groups may exercise the right to vote,
- (b) Decisions of committees, subcommittees and working groups shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting, except that the reconsideration of a proposal or an amendment shall require the majority established by rule 32.

IX. LANGUAGES AND RECORDS

Languages of the Conference

Rule 53

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the languages of the Conference.

Interpretation

Rule 54

1. Speeches made in a language of the Conference shall be interpreted into the other such languages.
2. A representative may speak in a language other than a language of the Conference if the delegation concerned provides for interpretation into one such language.

Languages of official documents

Rule 55

Official documents of the Conference shall be made available in the languages of the Conference.

Sound recordings of meetings

Rule 56

Sound recordings of meetings of the Conference and of any Main Committee shall be made and kept in accordance with the practice of the United Nations. Unless otherwise decided by the Conference or the Main Committee concerned, no such recordings shall be made of the meetings of any working group thereof.

X. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEETINGS

General principlesRule 57

The plenary meetings of the Conference and the meetings of any committee shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides otherwise. All decisions taken by the plenary of the Conference at a private meeting shall be announced at an early public meeting of the Plenary.

Rule 58

As a general rule, meetings of the General Committee, subcommittees or working groups shall be held in private.

Communiqués on private meetingsRule 59

At the close of a private meeting, the presiding officer of the organ concerned may issue a communiqué through the Secretary-General of the Conference.

XI. OTHER PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS

Representatives of organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the capacity of observers in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices

Rule 60

Representatives designated by organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices, have the right to participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, any Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group.

Representatives of national liberation movements

Rule 61

Representatives designated by national liberation movements invited to the Conference may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, any Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on any matter of particular concern to those movements.

Representatives of the specialized agencies 1/

Rule 62

Representatives designated by the specialized agencies may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, any Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Representatives of other intergovernmental organizations

Rule 63

Representatives designated by other intergovernmental organizations invited to the Conference may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, any Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Representatives of interested United Nations organs

Rule 64

Representatives designated by interested organs of the United Nations may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, any Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Representatives of non-governmental organizations

Rule 65

1. Non-governmental organizations invited to the Conference may designate representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Conference and any Main Committee.
2. Upon the invitation of the presiding officer of the conference body concerned and subject to the approval of that body, such observers may make oral statements on questions in which they have special competence.

Written statements

Rule 66

Written statements submitted by the designated representatives referred to in rules 60 to 65 shall be distributed by the secretariat to all delegations in the quantities and in the language in which the statements are

1/ For the purpose of these rules, the term "specialized agencies" includes the International Atomic Energy Agency and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

made available to it at the site of the Conference, provided that a statement submitted on behalf of a non-governmental organization is related to the work of the Conference and is on a subject in which the organization has a special competence.

XII. SUSPENSION AND AMENDMENT OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Method of suspension

Rule 67

Any of these rules may be suspended by the Conference provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given, which may be waived if no representative objects. Any such suspension shall be limited to a specific and stated purpose and to a period required to achieve that purpose.

Method of amendment

Rule 68

These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Conference taken by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, after the General Committee has reported on the proposed amendment.
